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Hepatitis A Fact Sheet

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS	Adults will have signs and symptoms more often than children.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jaundice • fatigue • abdominal pain • loss of appetite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea • diarrhea • fever
CAUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis A virus (HAV) 	
LONG-TERM EFFECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no chronic (long-term) infection. • Once you have had hepatitis A you cannot get it again. • About 15% of people infected with HAV will have prolonged or relapsing symptoms over a 6-9 month period. 	
TRANSMISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAV is found in the stool (feces) of persons with hepatitis A. • HAV is usually spread from person to person by putting something in the mouth (even though it may look clean) that has been contaminated with the stool of a person with hepatitis A. 	
PERSONS AT RISK OF INFECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household contacts of infected persons • Sex contacts of infected persons • Persons, especially children, living in areas with increased rates of hepatitis A during the baseline period from 1987-1997. (view map) • Persons traveling to countries where hepatitis A is common (view map) • Men who have sex with men • Injecting and non-injecting drug users 	

PREVENTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis A vaccine is the best protection. • Short-term protection against hepatitis A is available from immune globulin. It can be given before and within 2 weeks after coming in contact with HAV. • Always wash your hands with soap and water after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, and before preparing and eating food.
VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>Vaccine is recommended for the following persons 2 years of age and older:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelers to areas with increased rates of hepatitis A (view map) • Men who have sex with men • Injecting and non-injecting drug users • Persons with clotting-factor disorders (e.g. hemophilia) • Persons with chronic liver disease • Children living in areas with increased rates of hepatitis A during the baseline period from 1987-1997. (view map)
TRENDS & STATISTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurs in epidemics both nationwide and in communities • During epidemic years, the number of reported cases reached 35,000. • In the late 1990s, hepatitis A vaccine was more widely used and the number of cases reached historic lows. • One-third of Americans have evidence of past infection (immunity). • Click here for hepatitis A disease burden information